



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JANET OLSZEWSKI
DIRECTOR

August 1, 2008

Name
Address

Dear Ms/Mr:

In July 1, 2005, the regulation of the social work profession changed from a title protection (registration) to protection of the practice for qualified social workers through licensure. It has been a slow transition but it has had significant implications for the practice and regulation of the social work profession. We have heard of a number of situations that have arisen where people did not understand the new regulations. With the additional enforcement by Medicaid limiting who can be reimbursed for services rendered by a social worker, we feel there is a need to provide some basic education for all on what licensure for social workers means.

The major goal of the Social Work Licensure Law is to provide protection for the citizens of Michigan by ensuring qualified and competent practitioners. This is accomplished through establishing and monitoring high standards for practice. People have to be educated in social work, have supervised experience under a licensed social worker and pass a standardized nationally developed examination that ensures applicants possess the minimum skills needed to practice social work. The description of the scope of practice for each level of licensure is included in the Public Health Code.

We encourage you to view, and share with your colleagues, a PowerPoint presentation that provides an in-depth explanation of the changes for social work licensure at www.michigan.gov/healthlicense under the Social Work button. Additional information regarding the process and requirements for licensure is available at that same location.

We want to help you understand the law. If you have any questions or want to discuss the Social Work Licensure Law, and implications for your agency; or if you would like a presentation made to your staff, please contact the Bureau of Health Professions, Michigan Department of Community Health at (517) 335-0918 or email us at bhpinfo@michigan.org.

David P. Stanislaw, LMSW, BCD, Chairperson
Michigan Board of Social Work

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